

JFW



Docket No.: 50395-133

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
Osamu KASUU, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 8955
Application No.: 10/068,852	:	Group Art Unit: 1731
Filed: February 11, 2002	:	Examiner: C. Lopez
For: METHOD FOR FUSION SPLICING OF OPTICAL FIBERS AND OPTICAL FIBER TRANSMISSION LINE	:	

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Restriction Requirement  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated September 9, 2004, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election of either:

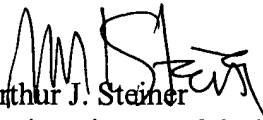
- Group I. Claims 1 through 3, directed to a method; or
- Group II. Claim 4, directed to an optical transmission line.

In response Applicants elect to prosecute method claims 1 through 3 (Group I). Favorable consideration of method claims 1 through 3 is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

  
Arthur J. Steiner  
Registration No. 26,106

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
202.756.8000 AJS:ntb  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: September 28, 2004**